



Dear Friends,

June 2013

In this update letter, I thought I would share a story of hope; a promise realized and a sense of future - all of which was made possible by you, our supporters. Since it is the end of the school year, I thought I would tell you about our most recent college graduate (although there are many other stories I could share).



Marme was of the 'original' kids from the old pig slaughterhouse. She is the one child who made me realize that I had to build the Lingap Center so long ago. She was a very young girl who had been terribly brutalized by her grandmother - in ways too horrible to mention. Additionally, her grandmother hit her in the head with a baseball bat, almost killing her. She decided to run away because anything was better than the treatment she received at the hand of her grandmother! She wound up living on the street and begging for food just to survive. She was perhaps five years old when the police brought her to us.

I am more than a little excited to tell you that Marme became our second college graduate on Saturday, March 23, when she received her bachelor's degree in Advertising from the University of San Carlos. She is now working at the Marriott Hotel in Cebu City. Can you imagine this for a child who had no hope whatsoever? It is really a miracle. I am extremely proud of her! Her senior thesis was entitled: "*How the Lingap Center saved my life.*" I have told her many times that I should have called it The Marme Center, rather than The Lingap Center!

This coming school year, we will have 15 in college and four in vocational school!! Additionally, in October we will have our third college graduate, since Aileen will be graduating with a degree in Tourism. She is currently doing her internship in the Executive Business Center at the Marriott Hotel.

Believe it or not, eight of our kids will be attending the prestigious public Science High School - at no expense to us! (Only 40 students are selected each year - based on competitive test scores). Additionally, Science High School graduates receive a fully paid college scholarship when they graduate!

As I think of Marme and our other scholars, I am reminded of a quote by Elijah Wood, which I often share with the kids, and



have posted on the bulletin board at the Lingap Center for all to see. He said:

"Dream the impossible because dreams really do come true!"

Simply stated, I really believe that the Lingap Center project is a miracle. It is a dream that has come true for Marme, Aileen and the rest of the Lingap wards and even our street kids who now have hope for a future. Please keep in mind that none of this would have been possible without people like you.

If you aren't a *'Place at the Table'* sponsor already, I hope that you may consider joining us. To enroll, please visit our website at: www.lingapcenter.org. Remember, we are a 501(c) 3 organization and as a result, all donations are fully tax-deductible. Additionally, since the Lingap Children's Foundation Board of Directors and I pay all administrative expenses (such as the cost of this letter), 100% of all donations go directly to the benefit of the children.

Sincerely,



John Drake



The Lingap Center Family